



TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- ALASKA REPORT #1 – SILVERS ON THE SURFACE
- THE BULL TROUT OF THE FERNIE, B.C. AREA
- FALL OPENINGS ON THE PECOS, NEW MEXICO
- A SUPER “UPPER CAPE COD” STRIPER GUIDE
- SEPTEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

We are in the seventh year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

ALASKA REPORT #1 – SILVERS ON THE SURFACE



(Note: this report is the first of a two part series on Alaska. The focus of this message is the non-fly-out Alaska experience).

The top fly-out lodges in Alaska are world famous providing anglers with a “world class” experience; however, there is another option that doesn't get as much publicity – it's the non-fly-out Alaska lodge. While a fly-out operation gets you to different waters daily, the non-fly-out operation is limited to the waters they can access via jet boats. Therefore, location is the critical aspect for a non-fly out operation. One of these operations with the most interesting fishery is the Goodnews River Lodge. The Goodnews watershed is immense and, due to tribal agreements, has only one stationary, permanent lodge on the river. Additionally,

the way the river structure is set up coupled with its massive Silver Salmon (Coho) runs provides an environment where Silvers can be readily taken on the surface in greater numbers than anywhere we've heard of.

Josh Luft-Glidden (above) visited the Goodnews in August and does a nice job of describing why taking Silvers (at left above and right) on the surface is one of fly fishing's great thrills: “The Silver follows the fly, swimming just below the surface until it finally strikes. It's like a scene from a movie! A wake appears behind your fly, slowly closing on it until the fish takes it in a flash of jaws and teeth. The first time I saw it I was dumbfounded, and just watched the take without setting the hook! After I hooked one, it was off to the races. The fish were fresh from the sea, and it showed. They took off on long screaming runs and acrobatic jumps - like catching a wild steelhead on a dry fly.”



(l to r: Grayling, Sockeye in spawning dress, Chum Salmon, Alaska sized Rainbow)



Josh went on to say about his trip, “It was exactly what I was looking for in an Alaska fly fishing experience. An abundant and diverse fishery, beautiful wildlife, and rustic yet comfortable accommodations. I caught all five

species of Pacific salmon, grayling, dolly varden, and rainbow trout (all 'bows were taken on a skated mouse).....I saw bears, moose, golden eagles, and bald eagles. Even with such a wide variety of species to target, the main attraction was fishing for silvers on the surface.....It was like nothing I have ever experienced."

The Goodnews has a solid Rainbow fishery plus Grayling, Dolly Varden, and runs of all five species of the Pacific Salmon. Their King Salmon run earlier in the summer is renowned, but it's the opportunity to take numbers of Silvers on the surface during three weeks in August which makes it very special.

Booking the Goodnews: the lodge has very limited space available for the "Silvers on the Surface" timeframe. The 2009 price was \$6,000 and that included the charter flight between Anchorage and the lodge. Reservations must be deposited by October 15 to save the 2009 rate.

Expanded details on what makes the Goodnews' Silver fishery so special is available through this link: http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/fish_report_silvers.pdf

THE BULL TROUT OF THE FERNIE, B.C. AREA



If I had to pick one reason why Bull Trout (male at left in spawning dress) are an exciting fly rod pursuit, it would be that you can fish for 28" to 32" inch fish that are easy to see in pools and streams where they often stack up while on their annual spawning run.

The Bull Trout is not a true trout, but rather a member of the char family. Fish of the char family are vulnerable during their spawning period as they congregate and are easy prey for bait or spin fishers. Like the trophy Brook Trout of eastern Canada, another member of the char family, they have been overharvested in places where they are not protected and the fisheries decimated. The Fernie area has had the necessary protection.

This August, my son, Scott, and I spent three days fishing for Bull Trout in the Fernie area. One of those days was on the Wigwam with our outfitter's top "Bull Trout expert," a guide with over 30 years fishing the Wigwam. We started the day on the main stem of the Wigwam with two pools, each containing at least a dozen large Bull Trout. Throwing large, colorful streamers and using specialized techniques we were taught on the spot, we had three Bull's eat in those two pools, all fish over 28". After a few hours there, we moved up one of the tributary streams. Between the pools and holes where we found Bull Trout, we cast dry flies to the native West Slope Cutthroat and Cutbows (a rainbow – cutthroat hybrid). We released about 15 Cutt's, including one small 22" Bull Trout we saw rising and thought it was a Cutt. It was a fabulous day, one of those special days on the water when you "hit it right" and that you don't forget.



(L to R: native West Slope Cutthroat, Wigwam River, Lodgepole River)



Reservations: The top Bull Trout guides are in demand for the prime time so best book early. For accommodations, there are a variety including ski-condos, motels, and 4 bedroom houses that occupy skiers in the winter.

For additional details on the "prime time" for Bulls, why this area is so special for Bull Trout, and the many other options of fishing the Fernie area, click on this link or paste into your browser: http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/fish_report_bull_trout.pdf

FALL OPENINGS ON THE PECOS, NEW MEXICO



If you're looking for an interesting Western fishery for two, three or four days of fishing this October, you may want to consider this unique 6,500 acre ranch with six miles of the Pecos River running across it. The location on the southern tip of the Rockies at an altitude of 6,000 feet presents an interesting mix of the Rocky Mountains and the Southwest. The overall ambiance of the ranch could be described as having an "upscale southwest flavor."

This operation can fish well in October through early November and also in March and early April. The price is, based on double occupancy and shared guide, \$1,250 a day/night for two (\$625 a person) and includes accommodations, meals, and guide.

Russell Schreck was with one of the small parties (two to four fisherman) who were there earlier this year. Some of Russell's comments: "In the four days of fishing I caught somewhere between 80 to 100 trout with the majority of the fish over 15 inches and trending towards and over 20 inches.....Fishing in the evening without a guide is encouraged and a number of large fish were caught in the evening hours within view of the lodge.....My fishing partner and I were mesmerized by the river and the ranch, are antsy to return and are planning another trip to the Pecos in the fall.....the ranch, is a tremendous facility....." This link will take you to Russell's complete report: <http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Pecos%20River%20Ranch%20Report.pdf>

A SUPER "UPPER CAPE COD" STRIPER GUIDE



Loren Irving, an experienced globe hopping fly fisher, checks in with this strong endorsement of a favorite guide who fishes the Upper Cape area: "I fished with Jeff two years ago and had an incredibly good experience so returned this year with Steve Rewick. We caught striper after striper on flies. A lot of these were 12 to 25 pounds and some were on poppers on the surface. He can also put you on tuna if you have the arm and the time. His guiding skills are superlative and equipment the very best possible for fly casting. One of the best guides I have ever fished with. All three days we were the top boat on the Upper Cape."

Based on Loren's reliable input, we are adding this guide to our "recommended" list of guides and are handling bookings for him. If you are interested in reserving dates, let us know.

SEPTEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

A "skinny water," seven pound brown on a dry fly and 5X tippet would be memorable without any embellishment. However, this particular New Zealand brown, belonging to a happy Steve Barley, came after 40 minutes of small stream stalking and attempting to get the fly in exactly the right place with a 20 mph cross wind. Steve's guide pulled him off the stalk twice (he was on his knees to keep his profile low) and gave him instruction on how to present the fly in the very difficult conditions. He actually had to cast the fly over dry land and let the wind bring it back over the fish. After all that, to see that big fish stick his nose out of the water and inhale the fly is truly a memorable New Zealand experience.



PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) banner photo – Scott Muelrath; Alaska – Josh Luft-Glidden; Pecos – Russell Schreck; Striper – Steve Rewick and Loren Irving.

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

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